

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 050545 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6837

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1717

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ANZUS, PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: DATE AND PLACE OF ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING

1. DATE: ON 5 JULY SECY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORNER SUGGESTED TO ME ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING BE POSTPONED TO NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER IN NEW ZEALAND, I. E., WHEN SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE LESS CROWDED AND SUMMER WEATHER HERE AT ITS BEST. HE SUGGESTED AS VENUE MT. COOK HOTEL IN ALPINE SETTING AND POSSIBILITY SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE TIME "TAKE A DAY OFF."
2. CONTEXT: HE EMPHASIZED "KIRK DOES HAVE POSITIVE VIEWS TOWARD ANZUS" AND WANTS SERIOUS AS WELL AS FRIENDLY DISCUSSION.
3. REASONING: CORNER SAID PM KIRK HAD TALKED TO PM WHITLAM AND THEY SHARED VIEW THAT IF BOTH "RUSHED OFF" TO ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, IT WOULD GO AGAINST GNZ/GOA POLICY OF APPEARING MORE INDEPENDENT WHILE AT SAME TIME EVOLVING POLICY WHICH COMPLEMENTED NIXON DOCTRINE, BUT IF SECRETARY COULD COME TO NEW ZEALAND IT WOULD SHOW REAL GOOD WILL AND REDUCE APPREHENSION HERE RE LESSENERED US INTEREST.
4. I EMPHASIZED TO CORNER ENORMOUS MULTIPLICITY DEMANDS ON SECRETARY'S TIME. CORNER REITERATED THAT WHILE PM WOULD GREATLY PREFER HAVE SECRETARY COME TO
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WELLINGTON, HE REALIZED THIS PROBLEM AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE TALKS HERE WITH UNDERSECRETARY. PROBLEM, AS CORNER UNDERSTOOD, WAS THAT PM WHITLAM EVIDENTLY WOULD ONLY COME TO NZ IF SECRETARY CAME.

5. COMMENTS:

A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS APPREHENSION OCCURRED JULY 3 WHEN GNZ RELEASED ITS ANNUAL " REPORT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" (BEING POUCHED). INTRODUCTION SIGNED BY PM CONSIGNS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION MAY BE ATTACHING LESS SIGNIFICANCE AND DEVOTING LESS ATTENTION , TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH N. Z. ... " DEPT. WILL RECALL THIS IS IN CONTEXT OF PM' S FOREIGN POLICY AS SET FORTH IN HIS ELECTION MANIFESTO IN WHICH HE PLEDGED:

A) " ANZUS AS A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE WITH GOA AND USA WILL BE MAINTAINED ,"

B) GNZ WILL GIVE PRIORITY " TO MAINTAINING THE MOST FRIENDLY BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USA." PM SETS MUCH STORE IN BEING SEEN TO ADHERE TO THIS FUNDAMENTAL PART OF GNZ POLICY IN FACE LEFT WING CRITICS IN HIS PARTY.
WOOD

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